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FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

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INFO RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY

RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA PRIORITY 0011

RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY 0026

RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY 0009

RUEHCH/AMEMBASSY CHISINAU PRIORITY 0006

RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY 0012

RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA PRIORITY 0008

RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY 0028

RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY 0014

RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO PRIORITY 0009

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S E C R E T BAGHDAD 001536

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/18/2018

TAGS: MARR PREL KTIA IIZ

SUBJECT: U.S.-IRAQ SOFA NEGOTIATIONS: ROUND 2 PRODUCES SOME AGREED TEXT

REF: BAGHDAD 1037

Classified By: Acting PolMil Counselor Karen H. Sasahara. Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (S) SUMMARY: The U.S. and Iraqi Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) negotiation teams met in Baghdad April 22 to May 11. The talks have recessed at the request of the GOI, which will be sending part of its SOFA negotiating team to Turkey, Germany, Japan, and Korea to discuss with those governments the implementation of their SOFAs with the U.S. The two sides made substantial progress in negotiating the text, coming to agreement on a number of provisions. Key differences remain, including on Status of Personnel, Authorities for Combat and Detention Operations, Jurisdiction over Certain Contractors, and Taxation. The teams plan to reconvene in early June, possibly in Washington. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (S) The two sides came to agreement on the following provisions of the draft SOFA:

Article II: Pol-Mil Consultations

Article III: Respect for Laws

Article IV: Definitions: 5 of 7 paragraphs agreed

Article V: Property Ownership

Article XIII: Bearing Arms and Wearing Uniforms

Article XVII: Licenses

Article XVIII: Official Vehicles

Article XXIII: Attachments

Article XXIV: Implementation and Disputes: 2 of 3 paragraphs agreed

Article XXV: Entry into Force, Amendment and Termination

¶3. (S) Other articles are near agreement:

Preamble

Article I: Scope and Purpose

Article VI: Use of Agreed Facilities and Areas

Article VII: Positioning of Defense Materiel

Article VIII: Protection of the Environment

Article XIV: Entry and Exit

Article IX: Movement of Vehicles, Vessels, and Aircraft

Article XX: Currency and Exchange

Annex A: List of Agreed Facilities and Areas

¶4. (S) Articles and Provisions Requiring Substantial Additional Work:

Article X: Contracting

Article XI: Utilities and Telecommunications

Article XII: Status of Personnel

Article XV: Import/Export

Article XVI: Taxation

Article XIX: Service Support Activities

Article XXI: Claims

Article XXII: Extension to other States

Attachment 1: Combat Operations

Attachment 2: Detention Operations

Attachment: Jurisdiction over Certain Contractors

¶5. (S) COMMENT: Negotiations are proceeding at a good pace, and the teams expect to come to agreement on substantial portions of the text when they meet again in June. END COMMENT.

¶6. (U) Lead SOFA Negotiator Ambassador Loftis has cleared this message.

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